WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus which can communicate with an external information processing apparatus via a network, comprising:

5   managing means for managing fixed identification information fixedly added to said external information processing apparatus and variable identification information variably added to the external information processing apparatus;

10   obtaining means for obtaining the fixed identification information and the variable identification information via the network from the external information processing apparatus which can be communicated with;

15   discriminating means for discriminating whether the fixed identification information obtained by said obtaining means coincides with the fixed identification information managed by said managing means or not and whether the variable identification

20   information obtained by said obtaining means coincides with the variable identification information managed by said managing means or not; and

changing means for changing a setting of a

25   control program for controlling the external information processing apparatus having said fixed identification information on the basis of the

variable identification information obtained by said
obtaining means if said discriminating means
determines that although the fixed identification
information obtained by said obtaining means

5 coincides with the fixed identification information
managed by said managing means, the variable
identification information obtained by said obtaining
means does not coincide with the variable
identification information managed by said managing

10 means.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said obtaining means repetitively obtains the
fixed identification information and the variable

15 identification information corresponding to a
peripheral device which is detachable to/from said
network from said network, and
said discriminating means executes the
discriminating process in response to the execution

20 of the obtaining process in said obtaining means.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
said managing means manages the fixed
identification information and the variable

25 identification information, as a list, of said
external information processing apparatus which can
be communicated with via said network, and

said discriminating means executes the
discriminating process by discriminating whether the
variable identification information and the fixed
identification information obtained by said obtaining
5   means exist in said list or not in response to the
obtainment of the fixed identification information
and the variable identification information of said
external information processing apparatus by said
obtaining means.

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4.   An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said obtaining means issues a search request to
said external information processing apparatus and
obtains the fixed identification information and the
15   variable identification information added to said
external information processing apparatus which can
be communicated with, and
said apparatus further comprises job control
means for controlling a job process in a manner such
20   that in the case where a response to the request from
said obtaining means is obtained and in the case
where said discriminating means determines that
although the fixed identification information
included in the response obtained by said obtaining
25   means coincides with the fixed identification
information managed by said managing means, the
variable identification information obtained by said

obtaining means does not coincide with the variable

identification information managed by said managing

means, said changing means changes the setting of the

control program for controlling the external

5   information processing apparatus having said fixed

identification information by using said variable

identification information, thereafter, the job

process is controlled so as to request said external

information processing apparatus to execute a job,

10   and if the response from said obtaining means cannot

be obtained, the job process is controlled so as not

to request the execution of said job.

     5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein

15   when the fixed identification information added

to said search request coincides with the fixed

identification information set in said external

information processing apparatus, or when the

variable identification information added to said

20   search request coincides with the variable

identification information assigned to said external

information processing apparatus, said external

information processing apparatus makes a response

including the variable identification information or

25   the fixed identification information corresponding to

said external information processing apparatus to the

information processing apparatus which issued said

search request, and

said obtaining means enters a mode for waiting for obtainment of said response to said search request.

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6. A method in an information processing apparatus which can communicate with an external information processing apparatus via a network, comprising:

10 a managing step of managing fixed identification information fixedly added to said external information processing apparatus and variable identification information variably added to the external information processing apparatus;

15 an obtaining step of obtaining the fixed identification information and the variable identification information via the network from the external information processing apparatus which can be communicated with;

20 a discriminating step of discriminating whether the fixed identification information obtained in said obtaining step coincides with the fixed identification information managed in said managing step or not and whether the variable identification

25 information obtained in said obtaining step coincides with the variable identification information managed in said managing step or not; and

a changing step of changing a setting of a
control program for controlling the external
information processing apparatus having said fixed
identification information on the basis of the

5   variable identification information obtained in said
obtaining step if it is determined in said
discriminating step that although the fixed
identification information obtained in said obtaining
step coincides with the fixed identification

10   information managed in said managing step, the
variable identification information obtained in said
obtaining step does not coincide with the variable
identification information managed in said managing
step.

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       7. A method according to claim 6, wherein
       in said obtaining step, the fixed
identification information and the variable
identification information corresponding to a

20   peripheral device which is detachable to/from said
network are repetitively obtained from said network,
and

       in said obtaining step, the discriminating
process in said discriminating step is executed in

25   response to the execution of the obtaining process.

       8. A method according to claim 7, wherein

in said managing step, the fixed identification
information and the variable identification
information of said external information processing
apparatus which can be communicated with via said
5   network are managed as a list, and

the discriminating process in said
discriminating step is executed by discriminating
whether the variable identification information and
the fixed identification information obtained in said
10   obtaining step exist in said list or not in response
to the obtainment of the fixed identification
information and the variable identification
information of said external information processing
apparatus in said obtaining step.

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9.   A method according to claim 6, wherein
in said obtaining step, a search request is
issued to said external information processing
apparatus and the fixed identification information
20   and the variable identification information added to
said external information processing apparatus which
can be communicated with are obtained, and

said method further comprises a job control
step of controlling a job process in a manner such
25   that in the case where a response to the request from
said obtaining step is obtained and in the case where
it is determined in said discriminating step that

although the fixed identification information
included in the response obtained in said obtaining
step coincides with the fixed identification
information managed in said managing step, the

5   variable identification information obtained in said
obtaining step does not coincide with the variable
·identification information managed in said managing
step, in said changing step, the setting of the
control program for controlling the external

10 information processing apparatus having said fixed
identification information is changed by using said
variable identification information, thereafter, the
job process is controlled so as to request said
external information processing apparatus to execute

15 a job, and if the response from said obtaining step
cannot be obtained, the job process is controlled so
as not to request the execution of said job.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein

20   when the fixed identification information added
to said search request coincides with the fixed
identification information set in said external
information processing apparatus, or when the
variable identification information added to said

25 search request coincides with the variable
identification information assigned to said external
information processing apparatus, said external

information processing apparatus makes a response

including the variable identification information or

the fixed identification information corresponding to

said external information processing apparatus to the

5   information processing apparatus which issued said

search request, and

    said obtaining step enters a mode for waiting

for obtainment of said response to the issue of said

search request.

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    11. A computer-readable memory medium which

stores a control program that is executed in an

information processing apparatus which can

communicate with an external information processing

15   apparatus via a network, wherein said program allows

said information processing apparatus to execute:

    a managing step of managing fixed

identification information fixedly added to said

external information processing apparatus and

20   variable identification information variably added to

the external information processing apparatus;

    an obtaining step of obtaining the fixed

identification information and the variable

identification information via the network from the

25   external information processing apparatus which can

be communicated with;

    a discriminating step of discriminating whether

the fixed identification information obtained in said

obtaining step coincides with the fixed

identification information managed in said managing

step or not and whether the variable identification

5 information obtained in said obtaining step coincides

with the variable identification information managed

in said managing step or not; and

  a changing step of changing a setting of the

control program for controlling the external

10 information processing apparatus having said fixed

identification information on the basis of the

variable identification information obtained in said

obtaining step if it is determined in said

discriminating step that although the fixed

15 identification information obtained in said obtaining

step coincides with the fixed identification

information managed in said managing step, the

variable identification information obtained in said

obtaining step does not coincide with the variable

20 identification information managed in said managing

step.

  12. A network system including an external

information processing apparatus and an information

25 processing apparatus, wherein

  said external information processing apparatus

has notification control means for controlling a

process for notifying a predetermined common network
address of set variable identification information
and fixed identification information when said set
variable identification information is changed or at

5   predetermined time intervals,

said information processing apparatus has:

managing means for making variable
identification information and fixed identification
information obtained from a network correspond to

10   each other and managing them as a set;

obtaining means for executing a process for
repetitively obtaining the variable identification
information and the fixed identification information
which are notified from said external information

15   processing apparatus; and

discriminating means for discriminating whether
a set of the variable identification information
obtained by said obtaining means and the fixed
identification information obtained by said obtaining

20   means differs from the set of the variable
identification information and the fixed
identification information which is managed by said
managing means or not in response to the process for
obtaining the variable identification information and

25   the fixed identification information which are
notified from said external information processing
apparatus in said obtaining means.